

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8-18, 21 and 22 are now in the case for examination.

Support for amended claim 1 is found on paragraph 13 on page 5 and claim 6 as filed.

Support for amended claim 14 is found on paragraph 62 on page 15 and claim 20 as filed.

Support for new claims 21 and 22 is found in paragraph 27 on page 7.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 6 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claim.

The Applicants also gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 13 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claim.

The rejection of claims 13, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention has been overcome by the attached amendments to the claims.

The rejection of claims 1-5, 8-11 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for being clearly anticipated by the sorbent process of Yan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,080,799, is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants' invention, as now claimed, is directed to a method for removing metal, particularly mercury and cadmium from flue gases and combustion gases. The Applicants' invention utilizes specific sorbents, iridium, palladium, ruthenium and iridium-platinum alloy. Applicants' invention functions at temperatures above 170°C, a temperature above the operating range of many other sorbents

Yan is directed to a method for purifying wastewater streams containing mercury, by passing the gas through adsorbent compositions. Yan does not remove metals, in particular mercury and cadmium, from flue gases or combustion gases, wherein the active metal sorbent is selected from the group consisting of iridium, palladium, ruthenium and iridium-platinum alloy, as now claimed by the applicants. Applicants argue that as the removal of mercury and cadmium from flue and combustion gasses is not suggested by Yan; therefore, the Applicants' invention, as claimed in claims 1-5 and 8-18, is not anticipated by Yan and is novel, unobvious and clearly patentable over Yan.

The Applicants argue that new claims 21 and 22 are novel and unobvious over the cited art. The references cited, particularly Yan, do not disclose or suggest a process for increasing the surface area of an active metal sorbent, wherein the active metal is iridium or ruthenium.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that the application, including claims 1-5, 8 -18, 21 and 22, is now in allowable form. Allowance is therefore respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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